

March 28, 2014

Appropriations & Human Services Committees Public Hearing

1915 (c) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WIAVER, CT ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY WAIVER II APPLICATION

Jessica Dapsis, wife of Ross Dapsis

Resident of Hebron

Good morning Chairpersons and members of the Appropriations Committee and Human Services Committee. My name is Jessica Dapsis and I am the wife of Ross Dapsis who suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury on June, 1st of 2012.

This testimony is on the CT Acquired Brain Injury Waiver II Application.

My husband was in a bicycle accident on June 1st of 2012. Ross was in Hartford Hospital for one month and then transferred to Gaylord Hospital in July of 2012.

Ross is an anomaly...he has no physical limitations. He can walk, feed himself, piece together 500 piece puzzles with our children, hug each of them and ask about their day but he cannot hold a coherent conversation of more than a few brief sentences. He does not know what common objects are any more. For example he tried to sharpen his finger with a pencil sharpener and put basil in a cup of coffee.

Because of Ross's injury his ability to comprehend what others are saying and his responses has been severely impacted. Both his short and long term memory have been impacted. Due to the combination of areas impacted, Ross cannot be left alone for safety reasons.

He does not fit into a Nursing Home, he has no physical needs.

Amazingly he remembers his two children, ages 10 and 12, pieces of our home and our dogs (which I have been able to bring to Gaylord). This blessing is also his curse, because of his injury he does not understand that he was in an accident and is in a hospital. He thinks he is being kept there and not understanding why. He calls crying thinking we are trying to keep him there or that he has done something wrong and is not allowed home. He calls every evening begging to come home.

I have been pushing and struggling to get my husband home... from the process of getting him qualified for Medicaid, to phone call after phone call to get him qualified for Money Follows the

Person to the Acquired Brain Injury Process. Ross should have been home 6 months ago surrounded by people who love him, surrounded by his children. The process is daunting, overwhelming and has brought me to tears many evenings.

As a wife with two younger children and a business to run, one that Ross and I opened up 7 months before his accident, I cannot be his caretaker. The Acquired Brain Injury Waiver is the only way for my husband to return to his home, to start to reenter a community that supports him, to be surrounded by those he knows and those that love him. He deserves to be a part of his family and his home in any way he can.

The supports are vital to him, to us, to our children. Changes are not necessarily a bad thing, but it is important to fully understand who changes can impact the individuals and the families the changes directly affect.